

Amendments to the Claims.

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Claim 1 ((currently amended)) An inflatable article of furniture comprising:

a first inflatable mattress;

a second inflatable mattress;

a hinge connecting the first inflatable mattress to the second inflatable mattress, the hinge being adapted to permit rotation of at least one of the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress relative to the other; and

at least one arcuately shaped tube fixedly connected in airtight fashion at a first end to a sidewall of the first inflatable mattress and at a second end fixedly connected in airtight fashion to a sidewall of the second inflatable mattress, the at least one tube being positioned adjacent and external to the hinge and adapted to permit passage of an inflating substance between the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress; and

the sidewall of the first mattress and the sidewall of the second mattress lying in substantially a common plane.

Claim 2 ((Original)) The inflatable article of furniture of claim 1, wherein each of the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress includes four sides, respectively, when inflated, wherein the hinge is connected substantially adjacent a first side of the first inflatable mattress and substantially adjacent a first side of the second inflatable mattress, the inflatable article of furniture further comprising:

at least one releaseably connector coupling a second side of the first inflatable mattress to a second side of the second inflatable mattress, wherein the at least one connector is adapted to limit lateral and vertical movement of the first inflatable mattress in relation to the second inflatable mattress when the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress are in a stacked arrangement and the at least one connector is fastened.

Claim 3 ((Original)) The inflatable article of furniture of claim 2, wherein the at least one connector comprises a snap-lock buckle.

Claim 4 ((Original)) The inflatable article of furniture of claim 1, further comprising: an inflatable backrest fixedly connected to the first inflatable mattress.

Claim 5 ((Original)) The inflatable article of furniture of claim 4, further comprising: at least one inflatable armrest fixedly connected to the first inflatable mattress and integrally connected to the inflatable backrest such that an inflating fluid passes freely between the at least one inflatable armrest and the inflatable backrest.

Claim 6 ((Original)) The inflatable article of furniture of claim 1, wherein the hinge connects an edge of the first inflatable mattress to an edge of the second inflatable mattress.

Claim 7 ((Original)) The inflatable article of furniture of claim 1, wherein the hinge is rotatable through at least about 180 degrees of rotation to facilitate positioning the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress in a stacked arrangement.

Claim 8 ((Original)) The inflatable article of furniture of claim 1, wherein the hinge is rotatable so as to facilitate positioning the first inflatable mattress adjacent the second inflatable mattresses in a substantially flat arrangement.

Claim 9 ((Original)) The inflatable article of furniture of claim 1, wherein the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress comprise polyvinylchloride.

Claim 10 ((Original)) The inflatable article of furniture of claim 1, wherein the hinge comprises polyvinylchloride.

Claim 11 ((Original)) The inflatable article of furniture of claim 1, wherein the first inflatable mattress has a length, a width, and a height that are approximately equal to a length, a width, and a height of the second inflatable mattress.

Claim 12 ((Original)) The inflatable article of furniture of claim 1, wherein the inflating substance is a gas.

Claim 13 ((Original)) The inflatable article of furniture of claim 1, wherein the inflating substance is a fluid.

Claim 14. ((Currently amended)) An inflatable furniture system comprising:

an inflation device; and

an inflatable article of furniture, said inflatable article of furniture including:

a first inflatable mattress;

a second inflatable mattress;

a hinge rotatably connecting the first inflatable mattress to the second inflatable mattress, the hinge being adapted to permit rotation of at least one of the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress such that the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress overlay one another; and

at least one arcuately shaped tube fixedly connected in airtight fashion at a first end to a sidewall of the first inflatable mattress and at a second end fixedly connected in airtight fashion to a sidewall of the second inflatable mattress, the at least one tube being positioned adjacent and external to the hinge and adapted to permit an inflating substance sourced by the inflation device to communicate between the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress; and

the sidewall of the first mattress and the sidewall of the second mattress lying in substantially a common plane.

Claim 15 ((Currently amended)) A method of using an inflatable article of furniture comprising:

providing an inflatable article of furniture in a deflated state, wherein the inflatable article of furniture includes a first inflatable mattress, a second inflatable mattress, a hinge rotatably connecting the first inflatable mattress to the second inflatable mattress, and at least one arcuately shaped tube fixedly connected in airtight fashion at a first end to a sidewall of the first inflatable mattress and at a second end fixedly connected in airtight fashion to a sidewall of the second inflatable mattress, the at least one tube being positioned adjacent and external to the hinge and adapted to permit passage of an inflating substance between the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress[;], the sidewall of the first mattress and the sidewall of the second mattress lying in substantially a common plane;

inflating the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress in a single step by introducing the inflating substance into one of the first inflatable mattress and the second

inflatable mattress; and

rotating one of the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress about the hinge to arrange the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress in a stacked configuration.

Claim 16 ((Original)) The method of claim 15, wherein each of the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress includes four sides, respectively, when inflated, wherein the hinge is connected substantially adjacent a first side of the first inflatable mattress and substantially adjacent a first side of the second inflatable mattress, the method further comprising:

providing at least one connector coupling a second side of the first inflatable mattress to a second side of the second inflatable mattress, wherein the at least one connector is adapted to limit lateral and vertical movement of the first inflatable mattress in relation to the second inflatable mattress when the first inflatable mattress and the second inflatable mattress are in a stacked arrangement.

Claim 17 ((Original)) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

providing an inflatable backrest in a deflated state, the inflatable backrest being fixedly connected to the first inflatable mattress;

providing at least one inflatable armrest in a deflated state, the at least one inflatable armrest being fixedly connected to the first inflatable mattress and integrally connected to the inflatable backrest; and

inflating the inflatable backrest and the at least one inflatable armrest in a single step by

introducing the inflating substance into one of the inflatable backrest and the at least one inflatable armrest.

Amendments to the Specification:

The Applicant has amended the following paragraph;

[0018] The present invention can be more readily understood with reference to FIGs. 1-9, in which like reference numerals designate like items. FIGs. 1-4 depict various elevational views of an inflatable article of furniture 100 in accordance with a first embodiment of the present invention. The article of furniture 100 includes two inflatable mattresses 1, 2, an inflatable backrest 8, and two inflatable armrests 9, 10. A hinge 5 connects the inflatable mattresses 1, 2 allowing the mattresses 1, 2 to be rotated about the hinge 5 and positioned into a stacked arrangement as illustrated in FIGs. 1-4 or other arrangements as illustrated in FIGs. 5-9 and described in more detail below. In addition, one or more arcuate tubes 3, 4 (two shown) are connected in airtight fashion to each mattress 1, 2 through respective sidewalls of each mattress which sidewalls at all times during use of the invention lie in substantially a common plane to facilitate communication of an inflating substance (not shown), between the two mattresses 1, 2.